

**Office of Subsistence Management  
Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program**

***NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE***

***CALL FOR PROPOSALS - PARTNERS FOR FISHERIES MONITORING PROGRAM***

**Introduction**

The Office of Subsistence Management operates a Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program to gather information on fish stock status and trends, subsistence harvest patterns, and traditional ecological knowledge - both to conserve fishery resources and to ensure a subsistence priority to rural residents. The Monitoring Program funds studies to gather, analyze, and report information needed to manage and conserve subsistence fishery resources, address fisheries issues and priorities identified by Regional Advisory Councils, minimize fishery conflicts, and address regulatory actions. In the summer of 2001, more than 100 subsistence fisheries projects were implemented by rural, tribal, state, and federal organizations to improve fisheries management and to provide information that will assist in ensuring a priority is given to subsistence users on Federal Conservation units in Alaska.

To develop an effective and scientifically sound monitoring program, involvement of rural residents is essential to ensure that the highest priority subsistence needs are addressed. The Partners for Fisheries Monitoring (PFM) Program will be a primary mechanism to ensure rural involvement. The PFM Program is designed to complement the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program by funding scientific field staff to assist rural residents and organizations with project development, technical support, mentoring, training, contract oversight, capacity building, development of partnerships, and coordination of management and project activities.

The Office of Subsistence Management invites applications for federal assistance through submission of proposals for implementation of the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring program. This Call for Proposals outlines Purposes and Functions of the PFM positions, Geographic Distribution of Positions, Standards and Administration of Cooperative Agreements, Evaluation Criteria, and the Schedule for implementation of the PFM. An attachment entitled "Guide to Preparing Applications for Federal Assistance and Proposals - Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program" is attached, describing how potential applications should be prepared.

**Purposes and Functions**

The Office of Subsistence Management will develop cooperative agreements to fill Partners for Fisheries Monitoring positions, including fishery biologists and social scientists. The hiring of both fishery biologists and social scientists emphasizes the disciplinary diversity of the Monitoring Program. These positions will help gather and analyze high quality information, communicate the results of fisheries projects to various audiences (Federal Subsistence Board, Regional Advisory Councils, Office of Subsistence Management, regional organizations), participate in the fisheries management process, and help develop the capacity of rural residents to effectively participate in the fishery management process. Fishery biologists and social

scientists will be hired and supervised by the organization submitting the PFM application.

Major functions of the PFM positions include:

- Facilitate identification of important issues and information needs related to subsistence fisheries management on federal lands.
- Assist with conceptual development and project design of fisheries resource monitoring projects to meet information needs identified, including identification of potential projects, assistance in preparation of proposals and investigation plans with Fishery Information Services staff, and facilitation of partnerships among rural and governmental agencies to strengthen project proposals and project implementation.
- Provide on-site technical assistance to fisheries resource monitoring projects to ensure projects are properly implemented, technically sound, and achieve study objectives.
- Serve as a co-investigator on selected fisheries projects. Tasks would include performing field data collection, statistical analysis, writing reports, and making oral presentations to rural and professional organizations.
- Mentor one intern every summer to promote an understanding of fisheries biology and management, harvest monitoring, traditional ecological knowledge, Alaska subsistence fisheries management, and career opportunities.
- Assist principal investigators in recruiting rural residents for summer seasonal positions and contracting opportunities (e.g., transportation of equipment and personnel, operation of fish wheels and test fisheries, equipment storage).
- Serve a one-year term every three years on the program's Technical Review Committee to develop the draft Fisheries Resource Monitoring Plan, including technical review of projects.
- Conduct community outreach and education to promote and improve understanding of the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and Partners for Fisheries Monitoring program.
- Provide assistance in resolving fisheries resource and user group conflicts.

### **Geographic Distribution of Positions**

The Office of Subsistence Management invites applications for federal assistance for five geographic areas:

Arctic/Kotzebue/Norton Sound

Yukon River

Kuskokwim River

Bristol Bay-Alaska Peninsula/Kodiak-Aleutians

Southcentral (Copper River, Prince William Sound, Cook Inlet, Gulf of Alaska)

Applications must clearly indicate the geographic area to be served and whether the position to be filled would be a fishery biologist or social scientist. While proposals for positions serving only a portion of a geographic area, such as Bristol Bay or the Lower Yukon River, will be accepted, proposals for positions that represent an entire geographic region will receive higher ranking. Applicants are encouraged to work with other organizations within the region to represent the entire geographic area.

The actual geographic distribution of positions will depend upon the type, number, cost, and quality of proposals received, as well as the total amount of available funding. It is likely that more positions will be requested and needed than available funding will allow. It is anticipated that up to ten positions may be filled, and that about two thirds will be fishery biologists and the remaining one-third social scientists. Until funding for this purpose is made available through U.S. Department of Agriculture, partnership positions for Southeast Alaska will not be considered.

### **Standards for Cooperative Agreements**

Applicants will be expected to hire a professional fishery biologist or social scientist within five months of signing a cooperative agreement. The Partners for Fisheries Monitoring positions are expected to be dedicated full-time and year-round to the PFM program, with no ancillary duties related to the hiring organization. Individuals hired must at a minimum possess a Bachelor's degree in fishery biology, social science, or a closely related field such as natural resource management, and have one year of professional experience. Documentation of minimum education and experience levels must be provided to the Office of Subsistence Management at the time of application or before May 15, 2002.

Applicants may include overhead costs to the organization sufficient to cover office space, telephone, computer, fax, equipment, supplies, supervision, training, and secretarial support. Travel expenses for each position may also be included in the budget. These should be sufficient to cover six field site visits; six trips to Anchorage for coordination with FIS staff, training, and meetings; and four trips to regional coordination meetings.

Start-up costs and expenditures for equipment and supplies are anticipated to be greater in the first year, and less in succeeding years. Applications may not exceed \$150,000 per year per position, or \$700,000 per position for a five-year period.

### **Administration of Cooperative Agreements**

The Office of Subsistence Management will administer cooperative agreements for these positions. Cooperative agreements will cover a maximum period of five years, with funding for each successive year contingent upon annual performance reviews, including demonstration of support from rural and tribal organizations, villages and regional Native corporations within the geographic area. Funding for year-two, -three, -four and -five is contingent upon future appropriations and availability of funds as well as attainment of project objectives.

## Evaluation Criteria

A separate Application for Cooperative Agreements under the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program must be submitted for each position. Specific information that will be used to evaluate applications for each criterion is described in the attached *Guide to Preparing Applications for Federal Assistance and Proposals – Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program*. Each application will be evaluated based upon the following criteria, which are listed in order of most to least important:

- Documentation of support from tribal and rural organizations within the geographic area;
- Suitability of methods and procedures for accomplishing program goals and position functions;
- Capacity to represent and serve the geographic area for which the application is submitted;
- Annual and total cost of the proposal, including use of in-kind or matching contributions that either decrease cost or expand support for implementing the PFM;
- Past performance in building partnerships among tribal, rural, state, federal and other organizations;
- Previous experience in mentoring, training, and supervising personnel;
- Accounting practices in place to ensure deliverables and accountability.

In addition, all applications must include an Application for Federal Assistance, OMB form # SF424, SF424A, SF424B. All applications will be kept confidential.

## Schedule

August 15	Call for Proposals published in Commerce Business Daily and local/state newspapers, and distributed to potential applicants
November 10	Proposals due to Office of Subsistence Management
December 15	Evaluation Panel completes proposal selection
May 15, 2002	Positions filled and in place